



CAWMC was founded January 1st, 1975

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President's Message

Hello everybody:

The Board of Directors and the members of our group would like to present our sincere sympathies to the family of William H. Duxbury, who passed away in April and to the family of CAWMC Charter member C4 Leslie D. Copan who died on May 12. . Les was a long-time supporter of both the CNA (RCNA) and the CAWMC. Our Al Munro reports that *“Les was a member of CAWMC until 2013, which, I believe, was when he stopped attending RCNA conventions. He also was a personal friend and a mentor to me”*. From his obituary, we read: *“Les was a career longshoreman, dedicated labour leader and passionate numismatist. Les believed in fairness and justice and fought hard for the rights of workers and social equality”*. I remember discussing with Les and cannot but wonder what he would have said about the world-wide manifestations that took place in May and June.

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In this issue, you will find a variety of articles, from the innovative way a Quebec club celebrated its anniversary, a local game immortalized on a wood, to a way to collect theme woods and a Chips from the woodpile chronicle.

In order to keep you informed of what is happening within our organisation and in light of our de facto cancelled meeting in Halifax, all reports will appear in the September issue of this newsletter, and will be voted at our next AGM, in Ottawa in 2021. Meanwhile please feel free to direct any question and comment my way. My coordinates appear in the column at the left.

Stay safe

France



Note from Editor: We are working on a very exciting project. You'll love it! Please stay tuned. Details coming in September!

International Year of Plant Health

Featured Wood of the Month July 2020

This month's Featured Wood of the Month is a donation by CAWMC Life Member Judy Blackman to commemorate 2020 being the **International Year of Plant Health**. The wood design is screened on the 45 mm kill beetle pine blanks and then a child-safe lacquer is applied to keep the design from wearing off.



Judy likes to be creative in the design of her woods and she doesn't like to repeat any designs from previous woods she has issued. This wood is actually an "opposing" wood to the one Judy donated for the month of April, in that the April wood reflected a tree being felled, and this July wood is about saving trees.

In December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly declared **2020** as the **International Year of Plant Health** (IYPH). The year is a once in a lifetime opportunity to raise **global** awareness on how protecting **plant health** can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment, and boost economic development. It was back in July 2017, when the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations first approved a motion to declare the 2020 year as such, and then the declaration took place in December 2018 (what can we say, bureaucracy moves slowly). Since the process originated in July, this 2020 wood is the featured wood for July. Plants and forestry have been over-farmed worldwide, and have also deteriorated due to clearing for human occupancy, infestation, fracking, water contamination, natural disasters, and other means. There are less and less farms and as a result, less fresh produce country markets, resulting in higher imports and genetically modified foods at a much greater cost.

The obverse of this wood reads "*IF YOU WANT TO BREATHE SAVE THE TREES*". Judy likes to put dogs on her woods, and so on the left and right of the tree appears a dog, one represents Jim Smith's dog **Fu** which is about 1.5 years younger than Judy Blackman's dog **Roxy**. The reverse reads "*INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH 2020 Please Save Water Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*" and has a smiling drop of water. Both Jim and Judy have seen first-hand the shrinkage of forest in their respective provinces. Both love to be out on trails in the woods with their dogs. Judy felt it important to bring awareness to this year's goal to improve plant health worldwide. Food and fresh water should never be scarce to mankind (nor for stock either), if we properly take care of our resources.

Judy hopes you enjoy this commemorative wood in recognizing 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health!



Judy's dog on one of those days she got bored and decided to see what the chair was stuffed with!→

Jim's dog FU



Chips from the Woodpile

Interestingly, in April of 1981 the newsletter included an article by Norman Wells as to why wooden money was not being made in Canada. Keep in mind that just the year before Timber Talk announced the start up of Deluney's Wooden Nickel Company. Apparently, there were about 2000 U.S. woods issued for each new Canadian wood (a ratio of 2000 to 1) and no one seemed to have an interest in or want to start a part time business.

I wonder what Jim Deluney thought about that statement. Interestingly, he also raised in his article the question, "How long does it take to print woods?" Norman Wells believed and stated, although it didn't say exactly where his information came from, that with the right set-up, it was possible to make i.e. stamp or press wooden nickels at a rate of approximately one second for one side or 2000 seconds for 1,000 pieces both sides. This worked out to roughly 33 to 34 minutes for printing plus art work and the making of dies, etc., all of which may take half a day !!!!

Today, I am sure that James Williston, owner and operator of Canada Wide Woods, Calgary Alberta (which I believe is Canada's largest wooden money manufacturer) would have a lot to say about that 1981 article and those numbers as would Norm Belsten of Newmarket who has a hot stamping machine in his home.

On the topic of making and issuing woods, an article later that Spring by Gelvin F. Leeper raised some good points should you want to order your own wood. First, be sure you know what you want on the wood. Lay it out in a circle remembering that it will be about 1 ½" to 2" round. Next, a common problem is trying to put too much into too small a space. AND, last but not least, order early. Don't wait until the last minute to send in your order. Unlike the information reported above from the 1980 article it will take more than half a day.

Russell Brown wanted collectors to know that on October 24th the first all wood show would take place in Toronto. The show was held at the Holiday Inn, Yorkdale with an attendance of 25 wooden money collectors. The organizers were pleased with the show and started planning for another event.

Around the same time, the Board of Governors advertised that a rubber stamp of the C.A.W.M.C. logo was available to members for personal use at a cost of \$6.00. Norm Belsten and Russell Brown also reported that they had a C.A.W.M.C. logo die made for wood orders through Jim Deluney.

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Chips from the Woodpile /continued from page 3

Do you know the story about Niagara's wooden nickel? The author of this story was Helen Schulze and it read: On April 22nd 1955 at 10:00 a.m. the twin cities of Niagara Falls were aroused by the wail of fire sirens. Flames shot high into the sky from the Maid of the Mist landing on the Canadian side, both boats were flaming like fiery torches. The boats themselves were beyond repair, but much of the wood was salvaged. When this was learned, the "Wooden Nickel" was born as a memorial to these beloved "Maids", who had been in service since 1885.

These coins enjoyed ready acceptance by residents and visitors alike. The early nickels had a monetary value of 5 cents and were available at banks and stores in Niagara Falls and could be used as payment for purchases. The practice stopped in 1956 due to increasing costs but in 1959 a newly formed Niagara Development Committee (now the Niagara Promotion Association) revived this unique item and the "Maid of the Mist" returned as a souvenir and the proceeds are used to create special events. Statistics show that over 500,000 wooden nickels have been handled since their creation and can be found throughout the entire world.

Now for another Tom Hudson quiz question:

In what year did Edmonton hold it's first Coin Show ?

Til next time Let the Chips lie where they fall. Dave Gillespie



Answer to the Chips Quiz Question from June 2020:

Q: Where is Rod Ardley Shell Service Station located ?

A: Ottawa, Ontario - wood # 5675-001 in 1955





*PICSOU- Scrooge McDuck
CNBSL 40th Anniversary Mascot*



Picsou is the French name of the Disney character better known outside of francophone countries as Scrooge McDuck.. The character had been chosen as the mascot for the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the Club des Numismates du Bas ST-Laurent (CNBSL) from Rimouski QC. Through 2019, the mascot attended the club's meetings and activities, as a visual reminder of that year's celebrations.

Scrooge McDuck is a Disney character akin to Donald Duck (Scrooge is his uncle and Donald still calls him Uncle Scrooge). He is immensely wealthy and keeps his fortune in a large, square building in the shape of a safe. He has so much gold that he can dive in it, which he often does.

The character Scrooge McDuck is inspired by Charles Dickens' stingy Ebenezer Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol" and he is of Scottish descent. It is in Scotland, in his youth, that he acquired his first penny, which he always kept afterwards and which he calls his "sou fetish". The most common representation of this "sou" is a "dime" (United States) of 1875. This detail changes often, due to changes in comic strip productions.

The young Scrooge emigrated to the United States to make his fortune and ended up finding gold in the Klondike. His many adventures across the globe and his status as a businessman will only strengthen his wealth, always counting on himself to achieve his goals, which will not fail to make him isolated and lonely. His nephew Donald and his grandnephews will give him more humanity in their adventures.

There are interesting parallels between numismatic and Scrooge . We know Scrooge as more of an accumulator of wealth than a collector of money, but when we see him taking care if his sou fetish and we see the security measures he takes to protect his assets, we can better establish a parallel with our methods of conservation and protection of our coins and notes.



PICSOU- Scrooge McDuck *Continued from page 5*

When we see Scrooge in search of a mythical treasure of an ancient lost city, it can remind us of the intense energy that a collector can deploy to compete his series of notes or coins, perhaps in travelling long distances to find the desired object at a numismatic show.

In 2018, the island of Niue issued a fine silver coin with the image of Scrooge.

The mascot attended the CNBSL's first weekend of celebration in May 2019 and everyone received two wooden tokens issued by the CNBSL including this one, bearing the image and the name PICSOU on one side and the club's logo on the other side.



Fine silver coin issued by the Island of Niue

The second type distributed, bearing the text: 1979 CNBSL 2019/40 ans/au service des membres (40 years/serving members) on one side and the club's logo on the other: will be discussed in a future issue of Timber Talk.

Only 100 woods of each type were issued.

(Note from Editor: This article contains excerpts from *La mascotte du 40e anniversaire du CNBSL* , written by Jasmin Lavoie, published in the *Bulletin Spécial-été 2019* by the CNBSL.)



Not made of wood, but...



I found this 500 euros Picsou 5 OZ Gold coin, produced by the Monnaie de Paris, originally available for only 12,460€ (C\$18,830 or USD 14,071), now unavailable.



On the obverse of this 500€ Gold coin, Scrooge McDuck is surrounded by his nephew Donald Duck, his grandnephews Huey Duck, Dewey Duck, and Louie Duck and niece Daisy Duck. (Monnaie de Paris website)

Note that Huey and Dewey are holding and seem enthusiastic about the 1 sou coin, the “sou fetish” mentioned in the preceding article. Who knows, may be these ducklings became collectors after all...

France

No Bones About It By Ross Kingdon

When one looks at most 'woods' in our collections, it is usually quite easy to figure out the reason why that particular wood was issued, whether it was meant as an advertisement, or to recognize a milestone, or be a souvenir or whatever; the list goes on. Recently, however, while going through some woods in my collection, I came across a wood from Macklin, Saskatchewan that I must admit, I knew absolutely nothing about and wondered for what significance, it had been issued. What really intrigued me were the word and phrases "No Bones About It", "World Challenge" and "Bunnock".

I therefore googled the word 'Bunnock', as this was an entirely new word to me. To my surprise, I learned that Bunnock is a game, an obviously very well known and popular game to the people in and around Macklin, Sask. It intrigued me even more when I learned that this game is played, believe it or not, with the ankle bones of horses.

Now, I know going back many years, horses were prominent on farms and ranches all across Canada. Today, certainly, not so much. I thought it very unusual that someone, in order to play this game, in past times, would be collecting the ankle bones from horses when they died. This however, must have been the case. I'm sure that doesn't happen today, but instead these so-called 'bones' are now commercially made.

This game of "Bunnock" is played with 52 horse ankle bones. Eight heavy bones (I'm not sure whether they are bigger or not), are used as 'Throwers' and four heavy bones are used as 'Guards'. All the others (40) are considered ordinary soldiers. The guards and soldiers are equally divided between two teams and set up in two straight lines, on level ground 10 meters apart. Each team (four players on a team) try to knock down the opposing teams bones with the heavier throwers. The guards must be knocked down first. Whichever team first knocks down all of the opposing team's bones, is declared the winner.

This Bunnock game was apparently developed and brought to Canada in the early 1800's by soldiers of German/Russian decent some of whom emigrated to Macklin, Sask and the surrounding area. Macklin has a yearly Bunnock tournament usually held on one of the summer long weekends.

This 38mm wood, blue in colour both sides, was issued in 1994 with 1200 woods sold for \$1.00 each, at the town's annual World Championship Bunnock Tournament and honoured by the local merchants. In subsequent years more of this same wood have been printed and issued. There are therefore many of these woods out there.

I now understand the reverse as it shows "B - ONE \$" as 'Bone One Dollar'.

Horse Ankle Bones ! Who Knew ?

I'm glad my curiosity got the better of me.

ROSS



A TRIBE OF INDIANS and
A HERD OF BUFFALO
by Bob Fritsch

Type Collecting is a popular niche in numismatics, where one of each type and variety of a coin is collected rather than a full set of dates. For example, a type set of Canadian small cents would include one from George V, two from George VI and 14 or so from Elizabeth II, depending on how you count them. But our options are rather limited in the Wonderful World of Wood. Hope is not lost, however, at least here in the States with a large array of different depictions of Native Americans and Bison, commonly called Indians and Buffalo, respectively.

These designs date back to the beginning of wooden money during the Great Depression in the US. The five-cent coin at the time was the famous Buffalo Nickel, or Indian Head Nickel, and these themes were a natural for the wooden variety. A collector can get a nice set of Indians and Buffalo with little effort. The neat thing about type sets is that the collector can pick and choose what goes into the set. Our little collection includes different depictions and colors. Another collector may decide only designs and another may try for every color of a particular depiction.

At the head of our tribe (see page 9) are the Chiefs with full headdress, facing left, with WOODEN NICKEL (abbreviated WN) top and BEWARE OF IMITATIONS bottom, in black and red. A variety of this design has DON'T TAKE WOODEN NICKELS / FOR THE REAL MC COY SEE OTHER SIDE separated by dots. Next we have a pair of Braves facing right in red and black, WN top, with the red slightly larger. A small head facing left with WN / BE PREPARED in black and blue. Another brave facing right is in a circle with W / N in black and red. The remainder of our tribe are singles. Those with the Indian facing left include WN / UNITED STATES OF AMERICA with an outline of the effigy. Two are within circles – WN top and WN / MADE IN U.S.A. with a square-jawed bust. The most unusual member of the tribe has the portrait in the upper half with GENUINE to the left and WN / FACE VALUE / FIVE CENTS / [dot]. Right facing members have a large bust in blue, WN top, CITIZENS GUARANTY BANK bottom. A small portrait offers \$1.00 OFF ON PHOTO PROCESSING. Two large busts include WN / MADE IN U.S.A. with a hole for a key chain and finally a line drawing within a circle, WN above.

The roundup of our buffalo (see page 10) finds every critter appropriately heading west and standing on a bit of prairie. The common legend for most of our herd is WOODEN NICKEL / UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Only two are not penned in a circle, with the green beast somewhat smaller in vignette and legends. A family of four adds three stars with members larger or smaller, in black, red, green and blue. A mutated grouping declares ONE WOODEN NICKEL / 5¢ in a circle with the buffalo double penned – black, red, green. Allied are FIVE WOODEN NICKELS / 25¢ in black and red. We finish our herd with a rather scrawny brown buffalo enclosed in a circle with the common legends, and another in black with a variation legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA above and WOODEN / NICKEL below.

As you can see, type collecting of woods is easy and fun. My tribe and herd will continue to grow as new designs and variants are found. What will your type set be? Maple Leafs, flags, free beer? All you have to do is look.



A Herd
of
BUFFALO

